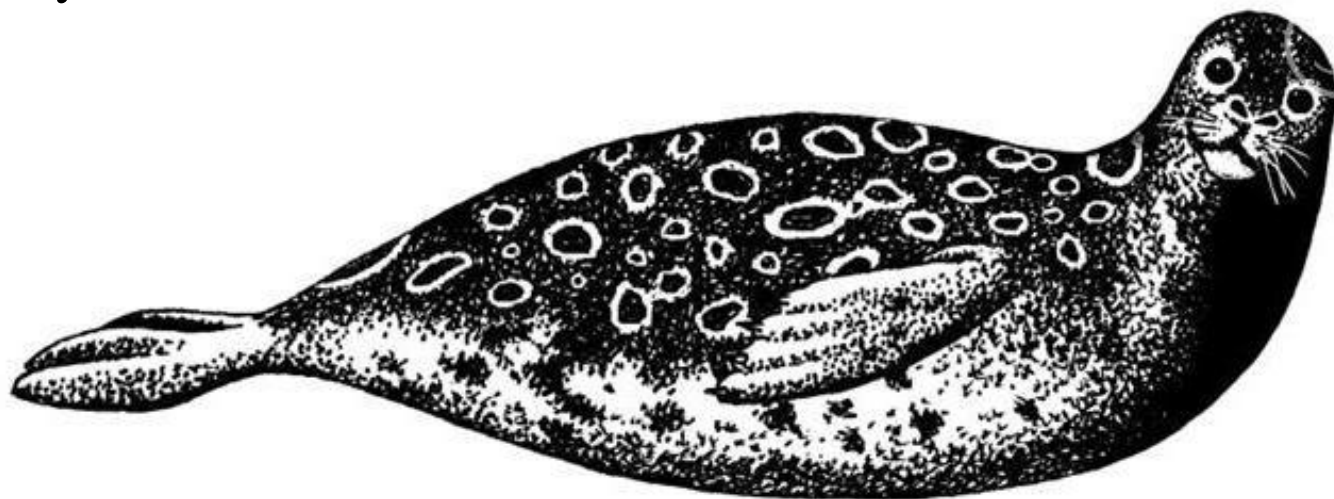




## Visitor Programs and Events, Winter 2011 – 2012

### Sandy Hook Unit



#### Discover Gateway During Winter Break!

Just because the weather has gotten colder, that doesn't mean that you can't enjoy your national park. Gateway's Sandy Hook Unit offers four seasons of discovery and fun, for the whole family! While children are out of school, they can discover nature all around them, on a seal walk, or a hike through the holly forest. Or, learn how the World War II soldiers stationed at Fort Hancock, and their families celebrated the holidays, by visiting History House and joining in one of the many programs throughout December.

This winter, take a break...at Gateway's Sandy Hook Unit!

#### December

##### Fort Hancock Lantern Tour ♥

Meet at the Post Theater  
Parking Lot

Friday, December 2

6 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Stroll around the Fort with a ranger to learn about soldier's lives during World War II. Dress for the weather and bring a flashlight!

##### SOAR Productions Presents: Manhattan Serenade

Written by Greg Brooks

The Post Theater

December 2, 9, & 10 at 8:00 p.m.

December 3 & 4 at 2:00 p.m.

Join Jack, Reggie, Doc, and the gals as they sing and dance their way through a weekend in 1946 Manhattan.

General Admission: \$14.00

Purchase tickets through

[www.soarproductions.org](http://www.soarproductions.org) and save \$2.00.

##### Children's Christmas Crafts Workshop

History House

Saturday, December 10

1 p.m. – 3 p.m.

Bring the family and learn to make paper chains and popcorn garlands, reminiscent of homemade decorations from long ago.

##### Christmas Holly Walk ♥

Meet at the Spmaceti Boardwalk  
across from the Visitor Center

Saturday, December 17

2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Enjoy the winter scenery and learn about the "holly" of Christmas with a ranger-guided walk around Sandy Hook's 64-acre maritime Holly Forest.

##### What's With The ♥?

Gateway's programs are wonderful ways to stimulate your mind and your senses, but did you know that many of them provide fantastic opportunities to get some exercise? Our hikes and volunteer projects are great ways to get your heart going, while you enjoy the natural beauty and historic treasures that surround you. Just look for the ♥ next to the program listing for programs that require walks of a mile or more, or moderate physical exertion. Let Gateway pump you up!

**All park visitor centers and offices will be closed on December 25, and January 1. Park grounds will remain open during regular hours.**

## **History House**

**Saturday and Sunday,**

**December 17 – 18**

**12 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Visit History House to experience a Christmas as the officers and soldiers of Fort Hancock would have experienced it in World War II. Members of the Army Ground Forces Association will be in period 1943 uniforms and will bring the Christmas of 1943 to life. Live holiday music and refreshments will be provided!

## **Santa Claus is Coming to Sandy Hook**

**History House**

**Sunday, December 18**

**2 p.m. – 5 p.m.**

Meet Santa and share your Christmas wish list with him from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Also enjoy the caroling of the Manhattan Dolls vocal trio. Refreshments and goodies will be provided.

## **Christmas at History House**

**Weekends: December 3 & 4**

**December 10 & 11**

**December 17 & 18**

**1 p.m. - 5 p.m.**

History House is a c. 1898 Army Officer's home that has been refurbished to the early 1940's, the busiest years at Fort Hancock. For the month of December, History House will be trimmed from top to bottom with vintage holiday decorations. Stop by and learn about Christmas at Fort Hancock in World War II.

## **January**

### **New Year's Day**

#### **Beach Walk ♥**

**Building 18, Fort Hancock**

**Sunday, January 1**

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

Ring in the New Year with the annual New Year's Day walk led by the American Littoral Society. Return to House 18 for hot cider, hot chocolate, and hot dogs. Bring any holiday finger desserts that you wish to share. Free. For more information, call (732) 291 – 0055.

## **Animal Tracking**

**Sandy Hook Visitor Center**

**Sunday, January 15**

**2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Learn how to track Sandy Hook natives by observing their snowy footprints. No snow? Sand and baking flour will assist the park ranger in teaching the skill of tracking animals on and around the Hook.

## **Winter Seal and Waterfowl Walk ♥**

**Building 18, Fort Hancock**

**Saturday, January 21**

**Meet at 10 a.m.**

Bring your binoculars and join us on a trek to coastal ponds and estuaries for a look at the seals and waterfowl that over-winter at Sandy Hook. Afterwards, return to the American Littoral Society headquarters and warm up with snacks and toasty beverages. Cost is \$5 per person, and reservations are required. Call to reserve: (732) 291-0055.

## **Winter Twilight Exploration ♥**

**Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center**

**Sunday, January 22**

**4 p.m. – 5:50 p.m.**

Enjoy the Hook from dusk to dark with this exploration on one of Sandy Hook's trails or beaches. Bring your own flashlight!

## **February**

### **Holly Forest Walk ♥**

**Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center**

**Sunday, February 5**

**2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Experience the unique charm of this 64- acre maritime holly forest on a ranger-led winter walk.

### **Birding For Beginners ♥**

**Sunday, February 12**

**8 a.m. – 12 p.m.**

**Meet at Parking Area B (Bayberry) by the restrooms**

If you are new to birding, this trip is for you. Learn the basics with an associate naturalist from Sandy Hook Bird Observatory/New Jersey Audubon for a morning of bird watching at one of the best spots in the state. Wear warm clothing and bring binoculars.

## **Searching for Seals in the Surf ♥**

**Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center**

**Saturday, February 18**

**2 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.**

Hike out to the Sandy Hook bayside with a park ranger to search for seal activity during their annual migration; and learn about marine mammals that dwell in the waters of Sandy Hook at different times of the year. Reservations required; please call (732) 872 – 5970.

## **Winter Night Prowl ♥**

**Meet at Sandy Hook Visitor Center**

**Saturday, February 25**

**6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.**

Bring a flashlight on this after-dark sensory walk through Sandy Hook's 64- acre maritime holly forest.